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Note verbale dated 28 May 2013 from the Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Secretary-General and has the honour to request that the relevant procedures should begin to admit Peru as a full member of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, through the enlargement of the Executive Committee.

The Permanent Mission of Peru to the United Nations would be grateful if this request could be circulated to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration during the substantive session of 2013.

The arguments for including Peru in the Executive Committee are listed below:

1. In 2002, legislation was adopted in Peru that introduced due process guarantees when determining refugee status, incorporating principles of international refugee law.

2. In Peru, under the current administrative procedure, applicants have the right to appeal and to legal counsel. It is also possible to appeal against the decisions of the Special Commission for Refugees.

3. Peruvian law establishes the principles of not imposing penalties at the border for entering the country illegally or without authorization, non-refoulement, family unification and confidentiality.

4. As part of the aforementioned procedures, applicants for refugee status are issued an identity card, which allows them to remain in Peru pending a decision on their case and also allows them to work. In addition, refugee services operate nationwide, through the decentralized offices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ombudsman offices of Peru.

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